

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-157 (Cancelled)

Claim 158 (New): A candle or candle apparatus, comprising:  
a body of a meltable fuel; and  
a rigid, planar wick provided in the body, the wick comprising a wood selected from hardwoods;  
wherein:  
the wick has a height dimension, a width dimension, and a thickness dimension;  
the height dimension is greater than the width dimension;  
the width dimension is greater than the thickness dimension;  
the thickness dimension of the wick is from 0.019 to 0.028 inches;  
the wick comprises substantially straight grains aligned substantially in the height dimension;  
the wood has a moisture content of from 10 to 12 percent; and  
the wick provides an acoustic crackling sound when burned.

Claim 159 (New): A candle or candle apparatus, comprising:  
a body of a meltable fuel; and  
a rigid, planar wick provided in the body, the wick comprising a wood selected from the group consisting of poplar, cherry, maple, wenge, oak, rosewood and bamboo;  
wherein:  
the wick has a height dimension, a width dimension, and a thickness dimension;

the height dimension is greater than the width dimension;  
the width dimension is greater than the thickness dimension; and  
the wick provides an acoustic crackling sound when burned.

Claim 160 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 159, wherein the meltable fuel is a paraffin-based wax.

Claim 161 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 160, wherein the thickness dimension of the wick is 0.019 to 0.023 inches.

Claim 162 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 159, wherein the meltable fuel is a vegetable oil-based wax.

Claim 163 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 162, wherein the thickness dimension of the wick is from 0.023 to 0.028 inches.

Claim 164 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 159, wherein the meltable fuel comprises a paraffin-based wax and a vegetable oil-based wax.

Claim 165 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 159, wherein the meltable fuel comprises further components selected from the group consisting of fragrances and dyes.

Claim 166 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 159, wherein the wood comprises cherry.

Claim 167 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 159, wherein the wood comprises wood or wood particles that have been adhered, bonded, pressed and cut to size.

Claim 168 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 159, wherein the wood has a moisture content of from 10 to 12 percent.

Claim 169 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 159, wherein the wood has a moisture content of less than about 6 percent.

Claim 170 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 159, wherein the wood comprises added resin.

Claim 171 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 159, wherein the wood comprises substantially straight grains aligned substantially in the height dimension.

Claim 172 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 159, wherein the thickness dimension of the wick is from 0.019 to 0.028 inches.

Claim 173 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 159, wherein the width dimension of the wick is from 1/8 to 20 inches.

Claim 174 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 159, wherein the wick extends above the body in the height dimension in an amount of from 1/16 to 1/4 inches.

Claim 175 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 159, wherein the wick

extends above the body in the height dimension in an amount of from 1/8 to 3/16 inches.

Claim 176 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 159, wherein the wick is coated with wax.

Claim 177 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 159, wherein the wick comprises a plurality of wicks.

Claim 178 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 159, wherein the wick has been subjected to at least one treatment selected from the group consisting of bleaching, dyeing and printing.

Claim 179 (New): A candle or candle apparatus, comprising:  
a body of a meltable fuel; and  
a rigid, planar wick provided in the body, the wick comprising a wood having a moisture content of from 10 to 12 percent;

wherein:

the wick has a height dimension, a width dimension, and a thickness dimension;

the height dimension is greater than the width dimension;

the width dimension is greater than the thickness dimension; and

the wick provides an acoustic crackling sound when burned.

Claim 180 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 179, wherein the meltable fuel is a paraffin-based wax.

Claim 181 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 180, wherein the thickness dimension of the wick is 0.019 to 0.023 inches.

Claim 182 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 179, wherein the meltable fuel is a vegetable oil-based wax.

Claim 183 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 182, wherein the thickness dimension of the wick is from 0.023 to 0.028 inches.

Claim 184 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 179, wherein the meltable fuel comprises a paraffin-based wax and a vegetable oil-based wax.

Claim 185 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 179, wherein the meltable fuel comprises further components selected from the group consisting of fragrances and dyes.

Claim 186 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 179, wherein the wood comprises at least one hardwood.

Claim 187 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 179, wherein the wood comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of poplar, cherry, maple, wenge, oak, rosewood and bamboo.

Claim 188 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 179, wherein the wood comprises cherry wood.

Claim 189 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 179, wherein the wood comprises wood or wood particles that have been adhered, bonded, pressed and cut to size.

Claim 190 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 179, wherein the wood comprises added resin.

Claim 191 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 179, wherein the wood comprises substantially straight grains aligned substantially in the height dimension.

Claim 192 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 179, wherein the thickness dimension of the wick is from 0.019 to 0.028 inches.

Claim 193 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 179, wherein the width dimension of the wick is from 1/8 to 20 inches.

Claim 194 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 179, wherein the wick extends above the body in the height dimension in an amount of from 1/16 to 1/4 inches.

Claim 195 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 179, wherein the wick extends above the body in the height dimension in an amount of from 1/8 to 3/16 inches.

Claim 196 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 179, wherein the wick is coated with wax.

Claim 197 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 179, wherein the wick

comprises a plurality of wicks.

Claim 198 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 179, wherein the wick has been subjected to at least one treatment selected from the group consisting of bleaching, dyeing and printing.

Claim 199 (New): A candle or candle apparatus, comprising:  
a body of a meltable fuel; and  
a rigid, planar wick provided in the body, the wick comprising a material selected from the group consisting of wood, wood product, a semi-wood composition, and a wood-like material;

wherein:  
the wick has a height dimension, a width dimension, and a thickness dimension;  
the height dimension is greater than the width dimension;  
the width dimension is greater than the thickness dimension;  
the wick comprises substantially straight grains aligned substantially in the height dimension; and  
the wick provides an acoustic crackling sound when burned.

Claim 200 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 199, wherein the meltable fuel is a paraffin-based wax.

Claim 201 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 200, wherein the thickness dimension of the wick is 0.019 to 0.023 inches.

Claim 202 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 199, wherein the meltable fuel is a vegetable oil-based wax.

Claim 203 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 202, wherein the thickness dimension of the wick is from 0.023 to 0.028 inches.

Claim 204 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 199, wherein the meltable fuel comprises a paraffin-based wax and a vegetable oil-based wax.

Claim 205 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 199, wherein the meltable fuel comprises further components selected from the group consisting of fragrances and dyes.

Claim 206 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 199, wherein the material comprises at least one hardwood.

Claim 207 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 199, wherein the material comprises a wood selected from the group consisting of poplar, cherry, maple, wenge, oak, rosewood and bamboo.

Claim 208 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 199, wherein the material comprises cherry wood.

Claim 209 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 199, wherein the material comprises wood or wood particles that have been adhered, bonded, pressed and cut to size.

Claim 210 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 199, wherein the material comprises added resin.

Claim 211 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 199, wherein the material comprises a wood having a moisture content of from 10 to 12 percent.

Claim 212 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 199, wherein the material comprises a wood having a moisture content of less than about 6 percent.

Claim 213 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 199, wherein the thickness dimension of the wick is from 0.019 to 0.028 inches.

Claim 214 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 199, wherein the width dimension of the wick is from 1/8 to 20 inches.

Claim 215 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 199, wherein the wick extends above the body in the height dimension in an amount of from 1/16 to 1/4 inches.

Claim 216 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 199, wherein the wick extends above the body in the height dimension in an amount of from 1/8 to 3/16 inches.

Claim 217 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 199, wherein the wick is coated with wax.

Claim 218 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 199, wherein the wick

comprises a plurality of wicks.

Claim 219 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 199, wherein the wick has been subjected to at least one treatment selected from the group consisting of bleaching, dyeing and printing.

Claim 220 (New): A candle or candle apparatus, comprising:  
a body of a meltable fuel; and  
a rigid, planar wick provided in the body, the wick comprising a material selected from the group consisting of wood, wood product, a semi-wood composition, and a wood-like material;

wherein:

the wick has a height dimension, a width dimension, and a thickness dimension;  
the height dimension is greater than the width dimension;  
the width dimension is greater than the thickness dimension;  
the thickness dimension of the wick is from 0.019 to 0.028 inches; and  
the wick provides an acoustic crackling sound when burned.

Claim 221 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 220, wherein the meltable fuel is a paraffin-based wax.

Claim 222 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 221, wherein the thickness dimension of the wick is 0.019 to 0.023 inches.

Claim 223 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 220, wherein the meltable

fuel is a vegetable oil-based wax.

Claim 224 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 223, wherein the thickness dimension of the wick is from 0.023 to 0.028 inches.

Claim 225 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 220, wherein the meltable fuel comprises a paraffin-based wax and a vegetable oil-based wax.

Claim 226 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 220, wherein the meltable fuel comprises further components selected from the group consisting of fragrances and dyes.

Claim 227 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 220, wherein the material comprises at least one hardwood.

Claim 228 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 220, wherein the material comprises a wood selected from the group consisting of poplar, cherry, maple, wenge, oak, rosewood and bamboo.

Claim 229 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 220, wherein the material comprises cherry wood.

Claim 230 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 220, wherein the material comprises wood or wood particles that have been adhered, bonded, pressed and cut to size.

Claim 231 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 220, wherein the material

comprises added resin.

Claim 232 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 220, wherein the material comprises a wood having a moisture content of from 10 to 12 percent.

Claim 233 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 220, wherein the material comprises a wood having a moisture content of less than about 6 percent.

Claim 234 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 220, wherein the material comprises substantially straight grains aligned substantially in the height dimension.

Claim 235 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 220, wherein the width dimension of the wick is from 1/8 to 20 inches.

Claim 236 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 220, wherein the wick extends above the body in the height dimension in an amount of from 1/16 to 1/4 inches.

Claim 237 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 220, wherein the wick extends above the body in the height dimension in an amount of from 1/8 to 3/16 inches.

Claim 238 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 220, wherein the wick is coated with wax.

Claim 239 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 220, wherein the wick comprises a plurality of wicks.

Claim 240 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 220, wherein the wick has been subjected to at least one treatment selected from the group consisting of bleaching, dyeing and printing.

Claim 241 (New): A candle or candle apparatus, comprising:  
a body of a meltable fuel; and  
a rigid, planar wick provided in the body, the wick comprising two sheets of a material selected from the group consisting of wood, wood product, a semi-wood composition, and a wood-like material;  
wherein:

the wick has a height dimension, a width dimension, and a thickness dimension;  
the height dimension is greater than the width dimension;  
the width dimension is greater than the thickness dimension; and  
a flat piece of cotton is sandwiched between the two sheets.

Claim 242 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the meltable fuel is a paraffin-based wax.

Claim 243 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 242, wherein the thickness dimension of the wick is 0.019 to 0.023 inches.

Claim 244 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the meltable fuel is a vegetable oil-based wax.

Claim 245 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 244, wherein the thickness dimension of the wick is from 0.023 to 0.028 inches.

Claim 246 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the meltable fuel comprises a paraffin-based wax and a vegetable oil-based wax.

Claim 247 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the meltable fuel comprises further components selected from the group consisting of fragrances and dyes.

Claim 248 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the material comprises at least one hardwood.

Claim 249 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the material comprises a wood selected from the group consisting of poplar, cherry, maple, wenge, oak, rosewood and bamboo.

Claim 250 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the material comprises cherry wood.

Claim 251 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the material comprises wood or wood particles that have been adhered, bonded, pressed and cut to size.

Claim 252 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the material comprises added resin.

Claim 253 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the material comprises a wood having a moisture content of from 10 to 12 percent.

Claim 254 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the material comprises a wood having a moisture content of less than about 6 percent.

Claim 255 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the material comprises substantially straight grains aligned substantially in the height dimension.

Claim 256 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the thickness dimension of the wick is from 0.019 to 0.028 inches.

Claim 257 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the width dimension of the wick is from 1/8 to 20 inches.

Claim 258 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the wick extends above the body in the height dimension in an amount of from 1/16 to 1/4 inches.

Claim 259 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the wick extends above the body in the height dimension in an amount of from 1/8 to 3/16 inches.

Claim 260 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the wick is coated with wax.

Claim 261 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the wick

comprises a plurality of wicks.

Claim 262 (New): The candle or candle apparatus of claim 241, wherein the wick has been subjected to at least one treatment selected from the group consisting of bleaching, dyeing and printing.

Claim 263 (New): A wick for a candle or candle apparatus, comprising:  
a rigid, planar structure formed from a material selected the group consisting of  
hardwoods;

wherein:

the wick has a height dimension, a width dimension, and a thickness dimension;  
the height dimension is greater than the width dimension;  
the width dimension is greater than the thickness dimension;  
the thickness dimension of the wick is from 0.019 to 0.028 inches;  
the wick comprises substantially straight grains aligned substantially in the height dimension; and  
the wick provides an acoustic crackling sound when burned.